

Claims

1. Use of a protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material as an additive in the wet-end of a papermaking process.
2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived  
5 from mammalian hair and/or feathers.
3. Use according to claim 2, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived from mammalian hair.
- 10 4. Use according to claim 2, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived from feathers.
5. Use according to claim 3, wherein the mammalian hair is derived from livestock.  
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6. Use according to claim 4, wherein the feathers are derived from chickens.
7. Use according to claim 5, wherein the mammalian hair is derived from  
20 pigs.
8. Process for preparing a paper pulp comprising mixing in the wet-end of a papermaking process a protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material with virgin and/or recycled cellulos fibres, and recovering the paper  
25 pulp so obtained.

9. Process for preparing a paper product comprising mixing the wet-end of a papermaking process a protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material with virgin and/or recycled cellulose fibres, dewatering the mixture so obtained, pressing the dewatered material, drying the pressed material, and  
5 recovering the paper product so obtained.

10. Paper pulp obtainable by the process according to claim 8 comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material.

10 11. Paper pulp according to claim 10, comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 wt.%, based on total paper product.

12. Paper pulp according to claim 11, comprising protein hydrolysate  
15 derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of from 0.3 to 40 wt.%, based on total paper product.

13. Paper product obtainable by a process according to claim 9 comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of  
20 from 0.1 to 50 wt.%, based on total paper product.

14. Paper product according to claim 13, wherein protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material is present in an amount of from 0.3 to 40 wt.%, based on total paper product.